

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Continuation Application of:

MATENA, Vladimir

Serial No.: 09/023,074

Filed: February 13, 1998

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS  
FOR RELIABLE DISK FENCING  
IN A MULTICOMPUTER  
SYSTEM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

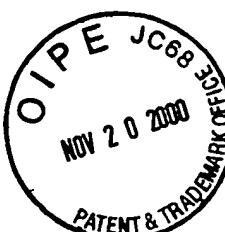
Prior Application Data

Serial No. 08/552,316

Filed: November 2, 1995

Group Art Unit: 2785

Examiner: LE, Dieu-Minh Thai



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Technology Center 2100

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above-reference application, please amend this application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 14, 17, and 24 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for preventing access to a shared peripheral device by a processor-based node in a multinode system, [including the steps of] comprising:

(1) storing at the peripheral device a first unique value representing a first configuration of the multinode system;

(2) sending an access request from the node to the device, the request including a second unique value representing a second configuration of the multi[-]node system;